



## Maritime Heritage Working Group

### *Meeting Minutes*

**Date:** 05/23/2011

**Start Time:** 3:00 PM

**End Time:** 4:03 PM

**Meeting Method:** Conference call; go-to-meeting

**Attendance:** Teri Leicher (Leader), Brenda Asuncion, Hans Van Tilburg, Larry Widhelm, Jean Souza, Cindy Punihaole, Rick Rogers, Terry O'Halloran, Patrick Price

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### **Meeting Minutes**

- Rick has more detailed information about some “yellow dots” (recorded but unconfirmed historic resources)
- The whole working group should have a whole list of known wrecks within the sanctuary and some information about them (list sent to WG prior to meeting)
- There should be public access, but how do you make sure sites aren't damaged (intentionally or unintentionally?)
- Maybe Hans could help by telling us how other sites handle this
  - Examples in existing MH action plans
  - Education and outreach approach is a given to the sanctuary program
  - Thunder Bay took an open approach, listing sites and positions, and putting moorings, and it seems to have worked by sharing information and gaining trust with dive shops, who in turn want to protect the sites
- There are already good, practical laws, but no one really knows about them...this could become a part of the education process that the sanctuary offers. Who is implementing these laws?
- Clarification: these documents (the maps) haven't been distributed to the public, they're drafts, works in progress. Divers know about sites, but they generally keep that information close. (Hans thinks the state has a compilation of wrecks, but probably not as comprehensive.)
- Most people don't know not to take things from sites
- There's a difference between sites that are already dived, and sites that are “new”. This creates two categories of site sensitivity to damage.
- Stellwagen Banks example: proposed three tiers to assign sensitivity and protection levels. First inventory, then you can actually monitor change, and see if there's low enough sensitivity that it could be shared openly.
  - At this point, maybe day-use moorings could be put in to prevent anchor damage.
  - Lots to consider: permits, cost
- Existing high-use at a site is criteria for mooring because it could potentially mitigate a lot of impact
- No sanctuary can really stop anyone from sneaking out and taking things from a site, but other dive companies can watch out for each other and provide that kind of enforcement
  - Does this attitude exist already?

- Not really because most people don't know
- Another categorization: historic state property or federal property (naval or military aircraft or shipwreck)...both state and navy have laws on the book.
- Identify challenges that already exist before moving on to solutions
- Does responsible public access imply the need for a heritage resource monitoring program?...yes...
  - monitoring would need commitment (\$) because this requires returning to the site
  - Dive clubs often do community service, maybe they could help monitor
  - Sanctuary could provide training (e.g., at other sanctuaries: Heritage Awareness Diving Seminar educates about protocol, Nautical Archaeology Course is 4 days for inventory and monitoring training)
- It would be good to document everything out there, but maybe not necessarily share exactly where...the rules should also be posted along with this information.
  - Intuitively, if a site is already dived by public, there's no taking that location information back, so it's more an issue of education
- May not be sanctuary's place to actually physically restrict access, but the Navy may have a different view, this may have to be considered on case-by-case...they don't prohibit visiting submerged naval properties in areas where access is allowed, but they prohibit damage to them. Naval History & heritage Command (Washington DC) does not have much enforcement capacity out here.
- Some sanctuaries make their own specific regulations for these resources, and they then have the power to enforce penalties
  - State may not have capacity to enforce anything
  - Sanctuary could choose to promulgate regulations and penalties
  - But if penalties aren't enforced, no one will respect them
  - Public very wary of additional regulations
  - Best to have people police themselves
- Just like educating kids, you'll always reach a percentage of them, and it will make a difference for them
- DOCARE has gone out if you bring something to them, but otherwise, there's really no effective enforcement for the laws on the books
- We have: maps, statistics, existing mandates, existing management groups, this could become a packet for SAC members
- Next meeting: figure out what we'd actually ask the sanctuary to do
  - What type of outreach, etc? (E.g., brochure)
  - Research needs
  - Remember, other sanctuaries have other regulations / penalties?
    - Do we know the rules in other sanctuaries? This could be something that Hans discusses on the next call...he's sent out stuff from other management plans, but he could focus on actual regulations...also could look at how other co-management structures handle the issue.
- Dick Gould has distinguished preservation laws in the books vs. agency implementing the statutes.



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#### Action Items

- Distribute minutes
- Develop agenda for next meeting
- Hans will look at wording in other sanctuaries' regulations
- Ask Dick to discuss preservation laws and agency implementation

**Next meeting:** 06/13/2011 at 3:00 PM